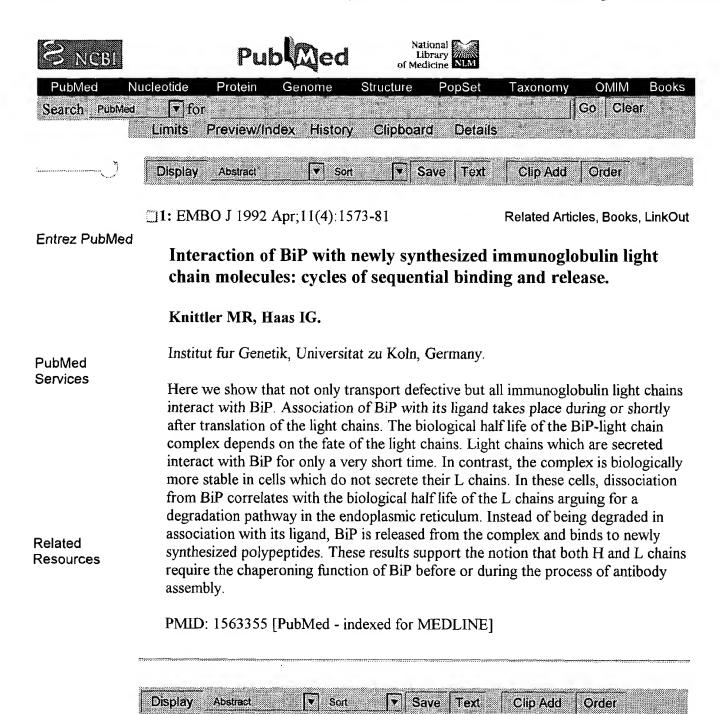
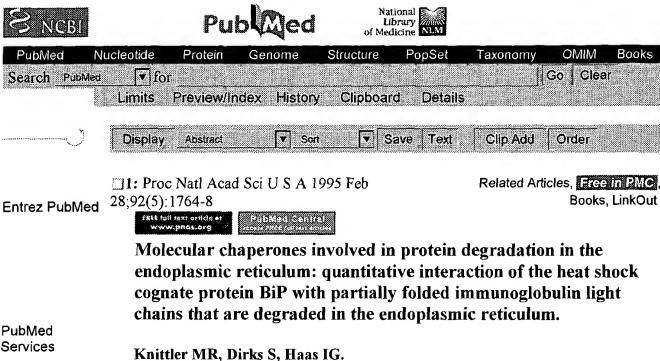


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Institute for Biochemistry I, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Related quantitativ degradatio Resources that these t

In the absence of immunoglobulin heavy-chain expression, some immunoglobulin light (L) chains are retained and degraded within the cell. We investigated the fate of two different nonsecreted murine L chains which exhibit different half-lives (50 min and 3-4 hr). Our results demonstrate that both nonsecreted L chains are quantitatively bound to BiP as partially oxidized molecules. The kinetics of L-chain degradation coincided with those of L-chain dissociation from BiP, which suggests that these two processes are functionally related. L-chain degradation does not depend on vesicular transport, indicating that these soluble proteins are degraded in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). In contrast, secreted L chains, which interact only transiently with BiP, are completely oxidized and are not degraded even when they are artificially retained in the ER. Our data support the model that, by means of BiP interaction, the ER degradation mechanism has the potential to discriminate between partially and completely folded molecules.

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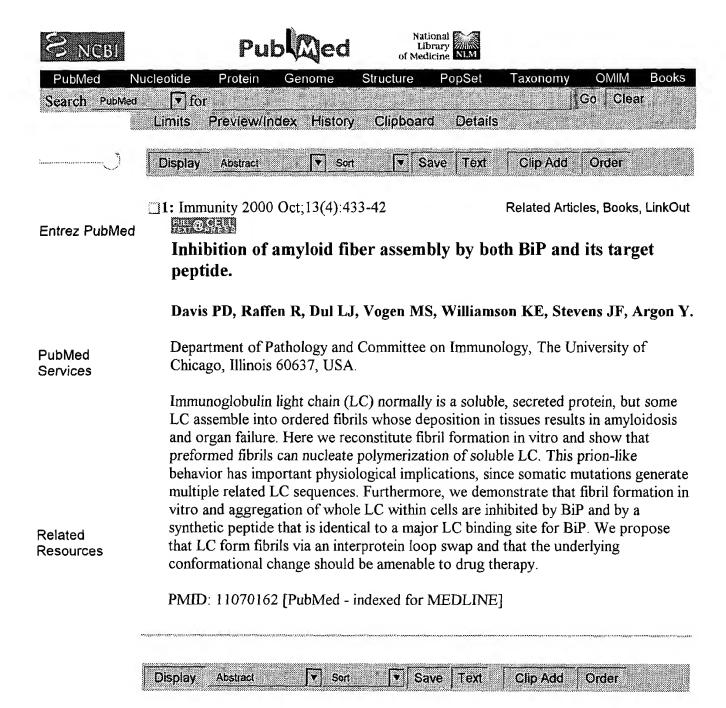


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